



August 22, 2016

GEORGIA INSTRUCTION 180-002 FIRST EDITION – DESIGNATED CONSERVATIONIST

GA180.0 PURPOSE

This instruction is being sent to specify which Georgia NRCS and partner employees may hold the title of Designated Conservationist for conservation planning and technical determinations and/or decisions.

GA180.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by all NRCS and partner employees.

GA180.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Georgia Instruction will be posted in the Georgia eFOTG, Section III – Resource Management Systems and Criteria, and can be accessed under the Legislated Programs Folder.

GA180.3 EXHIBITS

See attachment.

TERRANCE O. RUDOLPH
State Conservationist

Enclosure: 1. Designated Conservationist Letter

(GA Instruction 180 - 002 First Edition – August 2016)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Georgia State Office
355 East Hancock Avenue - Athens, GA - 30601-2775
Voice: 706-546-2272 Fax: 855-417-8490

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1. PURPOSE:

This instruction is being sent to specify which Georgia NRCS and partner employees may hold the title of Designated Conservationist for conservation planning and technical determinations and/or decisions.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

There are numerous situations when the Code of Federal Regulations (CFC) or Natural Resources Conservation Service policy requires action or a signature by the “Designated Conservationist.”

The ability to assume the title of Designated Conservationist may also be limited by the principle of “separation of duties.” In order to be a Designated Conservationist, the NRCS or partner employee must meet all applicable policy guidance.

Designated Conservationist	
Function	Requirements
Signing conservation plans	Any NRCS or partner employee who is a “Certified Conservation Planner.”
Wetland determination, field reviews, use of Functional Assessments models, development of minimal effect agreements and other wetland activities	All NRCS and partner employees who have job approval authority level 3 as listed on the Wetland Identification Job Approval spreadsheet in Section III of the Georgia Field Office Technical Guide.
Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Compliance decisions	NRCS or partner employee who have HEL compliance as a duty in their position description.

Georgia NRCS area resource conservationists and members of the Ecological Sciences and Conservation Planning staff are authorized to serve as a designated conservationist.

Direct questions to the State Resource Conservationist at (706) 546-2009.

Approved By: /s/

Date: August 22, 2016

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